(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons behind its so much increase, as generally the rate of inflation has always remained less than 10 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These bulk drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in "Modification in Drug Policy, 1986", announced in September, 1994.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The Government has delegated powers to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for fixation of prices of non-Scheduled formulations under Para 10(b) of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Further Government has also reduced the permissible price increase limit in 12 calendar months from 20 per cent to 10 per cent for more effective check on price increases. The monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulations is currently on the basis of data from ORG-IMS.

Based on in-house data-based analysis by NPPA of ORG IMS data for the period December, 1994 to July, 2007, it has been observed that the prices of 15 top medicines of 15 top bulk drugs which went out of price control consequent to the promulgation of DPCO'95, have gone up by 9.65% annually.

Prices of medicines

1977. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the prices of some medicines;

(b) if so, the names of the medicines and name of the manufacturing companies;

(c) whether Government's attention has also drawn that 50 per cent of these medicines are not available in the market after reduction of prices; and

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure the availability of these medicines in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The prices of 74 bulk drugs specified in the Frist Sehedute of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based the eon are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Fixation/revision of prices of bulk drugs and formulations is an on-going exercise undertaken by the NPPA.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. Prices of

these drugs are regularly monitored and corrective measures taken where public interest is found to be adversely affected.

As a result of Government's efforts, Pharmaceutical industry had voluntarily agreed to reduce prices of 886 formulations. However, the availability of these formulations at reduced prices varies from State to State.

The Drug Policy as announced from time to time is directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the poor.

Increase of medicine prices

†1978. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in the prices of medicines during the last five years;

(b) whether the Central Government has been asked to grant permission for increasing the price of any medicine;

(c) if so, the details of permission given for increasing the price alongwith the name of medicines; and

(d) the details of those medicines of which the prices have come down or reduced during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The prices of 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Fixation/revision of prices of bulk drugs and formulations is an on-going exercise undertaken by the NPPA. Details of increase/decrease in the prices of medicines and their percentage of total packs during the last five years is as under:

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	200607	2007-08 (upto 31st October, 2007)
	No.(%)	No.(%)	No.(%)	No.(%)	No.(%)
No. of Packs approved	506 (100%)	332 (100%)	1018 (100%)	1020 (100%)	394 (100%)
Price increased	23 (4.55%)	42 (12.65%)	99 (9.72%)	131 (12.84%)	37 (9.39%)
Price decreased	343 (67.78%)	131 (39.46%)	398 (39.10%)	340 (33.33%)	197 (50%)
Price fixed for the first time	134 (26.48%)	146 (43.98%)	480 (47.15%)	522 (51.18%)	154 (39.08%)
No change in prices	6 (1.19%)	13 (3.91%)	41 (4.03%)	27 (2.65%)	6 (1.53%)
TOTAL:	506 (100%)	332 (100%)	1018 (100%)	1020 (100%)	394 (100%)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.